

transistor 46) is controlled by a control unit 44.

Control unit 44 receives two inputs from error amplifier 49 and comparator 50, respectively, each of which receives a divided down version of the voltage at VOUT as an input. Depending on the state of its two inputs, control unit 44 performs a variety of functions. For example, where the output of comparator 50 indicates that VOUT has exceeded a shut off voltage, control unit 44 "is configured to shut down both the PMOS and NMOS transistors 34 and 46." See column 5, lines 31-44. Where this shut off voltage has not been reached, control unit 44 is configured to operate transistor 34 and 46 as a boost regulator in response to the input from error amplifier 49. See column 6, lines 1-12.

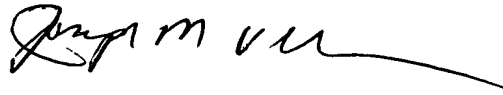
D'Angelo does not provide implementation details for control unit 44, but it is clear from the description of its functionality that control unit 44 is not a voltage regulator. Rather, it is a control circuit which selectively controls operation of two different transistors depending on the states of its inputs from two different circuits. A voltage regulator would not be sufficiently flexible to perform the functions described in response to the stimuli described. Rather, what would be required is a controller of some type, or application-specific digital or analog logic configured to perform the described functions. In addition to not being a voltage regulator, neither is control unit 44 "configured as a voltage controlled current source" as recited in the claims of the present application.

The Examiner has again failed to identify a *voltage regulator configured as a voltage controlled current source* which *provides a control signal* to control switch circuitry. Therefore, the cited reference cannot be said to anticipate the claimed invention. In view of the foregoing discussion the rejection is believed overcome. The rejections of claims 2-7, and 10-12 are believed overcome for at least the reasons discussed.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is

respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (510) 843-6200.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph M. Villeneuve", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joseph M. Villeneuve
Reg. No. 37,460

P.O. Box 778
Berkeley, CA 94704-0778
(510) 843-6200